

IPO/OSB/M-190-66
27 December 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Technical Development, NPIC

ATTENTION:

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SUBJECT: Evaluation of the Advanced Tilt Top Light Tables

1. Both [] light tables were evaluated by the Photographic Analysis Group over a two months' period. The [] light table was found to be unsatisfactory except for the light source. It was requested that this type of illumination be incorporated in the final design.

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2. Other comments received after evaluation are as follows and concern the [] Light Table:

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A. The power-assist mode should be eliminated. Fully powered film transport is desired with the manual mode used as a backup capability. The fully powered operation of the table was not entirely satisfactory in that smooth translation of film was not available. In addition, during very slow speed operation, film tension increased to the point that no movement of the film was possible. Single handwheel operation was well received. Operation of spooled film in the same or in opposite directions was advantageous. Independent drive of either the front or back film is also desirable.

B. The two outside masking shades were acceptable and should be a part of the final design. The center shade approach [] was better and should be considered.

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C. Film loading and unloading was easy because of the excellent design of the spool release. It is suggested that this design be considered for other, future tables also.

D. It was not possible to view the entire format when using an 18-inch film format. Some consideration for either repositioning the film-tensioning rollers or increasing the length of the light source and glass plate cover is necessary.

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E. The lateral drive [redacted] gears should be covered to prevent accidents.

F. Elevation of the light [redacted] an electric motor is an advantage over manual operation. [redacted] noise level of the motor drive will have to be reduced or better yet, eliminated.

G. Rotation of the light table on the "Z" axis or inclination thereof is acceptable and necessary considering the variety of systems used for photography.

H. Overall reduction of weight is a necessity especially since a small elevating table [redacted] is being used at present to allow use of two [redacted]. A different elevating table should be designed if weight reduction cannot be accomplished. The table should be able to carry two of the advanced [redacted] instruments.

3. Features of the [redacted] Light Table, except for the light source previously mentioned, were considered as unacceptable or did not offer any advantage over presently available equipment. Although the positioning of the film reel brackets may eliminate film tracking problems, the slotted bar of the [redacted] table actually served the same purpose.

4. It is the consensus of PAG that the Advanced Tilt Top Light Tables will be of value only to one branch which at present uses these instruments in their normal daily operations. Replacement of the older [redacted] models will necessitate a relatively large procurement of these new tables upon acceptance of a modified version of the [redacted] Light Table.

[redacted]
Assistant for Photographic Analysis

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